

Westmont Police Department

2018 Summary of Accomplishments



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Introduction

The Westmont Police Department provides public safety services around the clock to Village residents, businesses and visitors. In 2018, we received over 18,000 calls for service that officers responded to in a timely and professional manner.

While actively patrolling the community, officers provide indispensable services including vacation watches, business checks, school patrols, investigative services, and special details based on demand.

One of the Westmont Police Department's principle goals is to demonstrate the human side of our police force. We believe that building bridges and trust within the community will allow us to better serve our residents.

The police department continues to explore new, innovative, and cost effective ways of providing an unrivaled level of service to the Village. Our citizen's safety is and always will be our top priority.

The following is a summary of accomplishments exemplifying the dedication and commitment of members of the Westmont Police Department:

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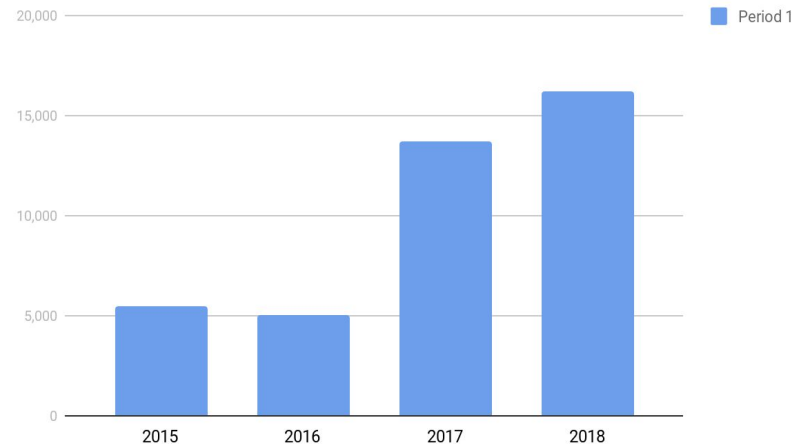
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Community Outreach

- ★ Illinois Special Olympics - Deputy Chief Gruen has been the police department liaison for the past 5 years. He organized several fundraising events including: the Westmont Teachers, Police, and Fire Volleyball Tournament, Cop on a Rooftop, and the Paper Shred and Bulb Recycling collection. 2018 was the best year for collecting donations. As a department, we eclipsed the \$15,000 threshold, which qualified the department to be listed on the annual Illinois Special Olympics tee-shirt. Sgts. Weibler and Gomorzak will be the new liaisons in 2019.
- ★ Citizens Police Academy - The CPA graduated 15 students this year. New topics included "Connecting Through Social Media" as well as "Situational-based Training." The CPA Alumni continued to volunteer at community events and raise money for charitable causes.



Westmont PD donations to Illinois Special Olympics



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- ★ Squad car night - In conjunction with the WSEC Cruisin' Nights on Cass Ave hosts approximately 60 police and military vehicles with law enforcement personnel from across the state, which ends with a "lights and sirens" parade through downtown Westmont.
- ★ Cruisin' Nights - Our bike patrol units and police bounce house were a consistent fixture in many of the 2018 Cruisin' Nights events.
- ★ Taiwanese Delegation and Sister City Tourism - The police/fire facility hosted the Lions Breakfast event, college students and other dignitaries.



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Community Outreach

- ★ Open House and bike auction - Each year, members of the police department host the community at our annual open house and bike auction. This is a great opportunity for the public to interact with police officers, tour the police facility, and take a look inside of a squad car. Plenty of games and activities are available as well as a hot dog lunch prepared by the Westmont Lions Club.
- ★ Summer Festivals - Westmont officers effectively handled all of our large-scale summer festivals, providing additional foot and bike patrols during Red, White and BBQ, 4th of July, and Taste of Westmont for safety and compliance with local liquor ordinances.
- ★ National Night Out - This event, in its second year, invited the community to meet and connect with officers through vehicle and equipment demonstrations, games, the police bounce house, and more, while partnering with many community partners like Westmont Park District, Westmont Library, People's Resource Center, NAMI, Downers Grove Police, and 7-11.
- ★ Parades - Hours of planning and coordination are conducted each year for these events through the Westmont High School and the Westmont Chamber.

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School Presence and Resource Officer Program

- ★ One patrol officer is assigned to each school at the beginning and end of the school day, as calls for service allow. This year, we increased the amount of time officers are conducting school patrols from 15 minutes to 40 minutes (20 minutes on either side of the bell). Our school resource officer continues to assist school staff with formulating school safety strategies and initiatives. This includes active shooter drills, pedestrian traffic, crossing guard coverage, school activities, and other student safety issues.

Social Media and Village Webpage

 Village of Westmont: Police Department
Published by Angela Whitehead [?] · November 1, 2018 · 🌐

Happy Halloween, Westmont! Thank you for sharing your pictures of our officers making trick-or-treat stops last night. We truly enjoyed spending time with your families and hope everyone had a fun night. 🎃 🍬 🦋



- ★ We launched a Facebook page to better connect with the community. Police department information is posted on a weekly basis with extremely positive feedback and interactions from those that follow the page. To date, our most successful interactions have reached between 2,000 to 13,000 users, with a current following of 1,100 members on Facebook.
- ★ Police Department on the village webpage - staff updated the contents of the village webpage including more tabs, press releases, weekly crime reports, overnight parking portal, updated forms, helpful external links, biographies and contact information, making it more user friendly and informative.

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Building Improvements

- ★ We continue to improve the police station while being fiscally responsible and environmentally friendly in compliance with the Village's Strategic Plan. All improvements conform to current code standards and ADA compliance and are performed by local Westmont businesses when practical.
- ★ Several projects that were started in 2017 finished at the beginning of 2018. All told, the Shooting Range, Quiet Room, Break Room, Physical Fitness Room, Safe Exchange Zone and water purifiers were completed and being utilized in 2017/18.

Additional Improvements...

- ★ Several new projects were initiated in 2018, which were completed or will be completed in early 2019. Those projects include 4 bathrooms (records division, unisex main floor, men's and women's second floor) LED lighting throughout the building and a mailbox in front of the station for village payments.

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Building Improvements



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Personnel

- ★ The police department achieved the budgeted authorized strength of 40 sworn officers plus 1 records clerk - the police department has been operating below the budgeted authorized strength for the past several years due to retirements, separations and terminations. The Fire and Police Commission worked tirelessly in 2018 to fill four vacancies within the calendar year. We hired a new records clerk with previous experience to replace a clerk that was hired as a police officer in a neighboring community.
- ★ Management negotiated successor Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police - Lodge #63, which included reasonable wage adjustments through FY 2022.
- ★ Officer Safety Enhancements - *Officer safety is management's top priority.
 - Proximity alerts - The squads have begun to be outfitted with an alarm system that will warn the officer that movement has been detected within an area around the squad car. This is to detect potential ambush attacks against the officer.
 - Safety glass and CO detectors were installed in 2017 and are now part of the vehicle replacement program due to the positive feedback from the patrol officers.

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Patrol Operations - Notable Activity

- ★ Traffic Enforcement
 - Speeding - 2,046
 - Moving violations - 1,104
 - Traffic collisions - 810
 - Failure to use Hands-free device - 466
 - DUI alcohol and/or drugs - 46
 - Unlicensed driving - 228

- ★ Preliminary Investigations
 - Assist Fire Dept. - 1,682
 - Animal calls - 275
 - Crimes against person - 155
 - Crimes against property - 579
 - Drug possession - 46
 - Suspicious circumstances - 946
 - Alarms - 418

- ★ Total calls for service - 18,359



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Investigations Division

- ★ The Investigations Division processed 206 cases for further investigation. Two of the more serious cases are highlighted below:
 - On February 24, 2018, the Westmont Police Department was called to 1125 Florence Avenue for a report of shots fired inside 1125 Florence. A perimeter was established, FIAT SWAT responded to the scene along with WPD Investigations. A search warrant was executed, the offender was not found but evidence was located which helped to strengthen the investigation. the suspect, Byron R. Taylor, male, age 29, of 1125 Florence Avenue, was eventually located and charged with aggravated discharge of a firearm (class X), possession controlled substance-cocaine (class 4), possession controlled substance- amphetamine (class 4), possession of firearm no FOID (class 3) and possession of firearm by gang member (class 2).
 - On December 7, 2018, WPD Investigations responded to the scene of a structure fire at 7 West Quincy Street. A suspect was located running from the fire and transported to the hospital. After multiple interviews and assistance from Bensenville PD, DuPage County SAO and DuPage County Arson Task Force an arrest was made. Jose Hugo-Herrera, male, age 45 was charged with two counts of aggravated arson (class X) and residential arson (class 1).

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2019 Goals

- ★ Police Shared Services - Metropolitan Enforcement Response Investigations Team (MERIT)
 - Currently, the Westmont Police Department is a member of the Felony Investigative Assistance Team (FIAT) a multijurisdictional task force that provides a SWAT team and large scale investigative services to the village. Several other similar task forces exist in DuPage County including at the Sheriff's Office. Under the guidance of the DuPage Chiefs of Police Association, the two task forces will be merged and a new task force will be created. The new task force will double in size, but at the same financial cost to the village.

- ★ Countywide Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System (CAD/RMS)
 - In June 2019, all DuPage municipalities will be operating on the same CAD/RMS system. This enhanced system will bring uniformity throughout DuPage, with all agencies having access to criminal justice information countywide including the state's attorney's office.

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2019 Goals continued...

- ★ DuMeg Temporary Duty Assignment
 - Several officers will be spending time with DuPage County's undercover narcotics unit as a learning experience and to better perform their duties as patrol officers.
- ★ Decentralized model pilot program DuPage Health Department
 - We are working with the DuPage County Health Department in an effort to better meet the needs of clients requiring health department services.
- ★ Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP)
 - The Westmont Police Department was last accredited in 2009. We are in the process to receive accreditation in 2019, which includes an independent audit of all police functions and an on-site inspection by subject matter experts.
- ★ The former Communications Center will be turned into a multi-purpose room in 2019. The space will be used for roll call, Emergency Communications Center, meetings and report writing for the patrol officers.